



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 11, 2005

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## **Department of Defense announces 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Recipients**

Arlington, Virginia – Mr. David Janes, National Chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, announced the 2005 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award recipients today:

**Alticor, Incorporated – Ada, Michigan**  
**Citizens Financial Group – Providence, Rhode Island**  
**Eaton Corporation – Cleveland, Ohio**  
**Enterprise Rent-a-Car – St. Louis, Missouri**  
**IDA Corporation – Boise, Idaho**  
**Los Angeles Police Department – Los Angeles, California**  
**Louisiana Department of Safety & Corrections – Baton Rouge, Louisiana**  
**Pioneer Financial Services – Kansas City, Missouri**  
**Ryland Homes – Calabasas, California**  
**Sears, Roebuck and Company – Hoffman Estates, Illinois**  
**South Dakota State University – Brookings, South Dakota**  
**State of Delaware – Dover, Delaware**  
**Toyota Motor Sales, USA Incorporated – Torrance, California**  
**USAA – San Antonio, Texas**  
**Wachovia Corporation – Charlotte, North Carolina**

“The 15 recipients of the 2005 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award, by the above and beyond support of their employees who serve in the Reserve and National Guard, set a high standard for all of America's private and public employers. As National Chairman of ESGR, I thank them and congratulate them for having received this recognition for their contributions to their employees and the Nation”, said Janes.

The Omni Shoram Hotel in Washington, D.C. will host the award ceremonies on Saturday, October 15, 2005. This patriotic evening will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the only national award that honors and recognizes the impact of National Guard and Reserve service on America's employers.

**More**

**National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve**  
**1555 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 200, Arlington, Virginia 22209**  
**800-336-4590, 703-696-1386, <http://www.esgr.mil>**

Previous Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients include Adolph Coors Company, American Express, Bank One Corporation, Colt Safety Fire & Rescue, General Electric, Harley-Davidson, The Home Depot, The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, The State of Minnesota, Northrop Grumman Corporation, One Source Building Technologies, Saints Memorial Medical Center, Strategic Solutions Incorporated, Sprint Corporation, and Wal-Mart.

Secretary of Defense William Perry instituted the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The award publicly recognizes employers, who were nominated by their employees who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the USERRA Law. This prestigious award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer awards that include the Patriot Award, the ESGR Above and Beyond Award, and the Pro Patria Award.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

As the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions on the part of everyday citizens, ESGR continues to be the informational agency for the employers of America's Patriots. More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities is available at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil), or by calling the National Committee Office at 800-336-4590.

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